

**To:** Rigas, Laura[laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov]  
**Cc:** Bullock, Wesley[wesley\_bullock@ios.doi.gov]; Hinson, Alex[alex\_hinson@ios.doi.gov]; Heather Swift[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Wilhelm Meierling  
**Sent:** 2017-07-19T18:54:11-04:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Re: ALEC Event  
**Received:** 2017-07-19T19:20:00-04:00

Those are the three that specifically requested access to the reception. They will already be on site for the day.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Rigas, Laura" <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>  
Date: 7/19/17 4:48 PM (GMT-07:00)  
To: Wilhelm Meierling <wmeierling@alec.org>  
Cc: "Bullock, Wesley" <wesley\_bullock@ios.doi.gov>, "Hinson, Alex" <alex\_hinson@ios.doi.gov>, Heather Swift <heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov>  
Subject: Re: ALEC Event

Thanks, Bill. Sounds good re: the topics. Don't think we will have time for media, but appreciate the request. Would they already be at the event, or come in just for this?

My best,  
L

*Laura Keehner Rigas  
Communications Director  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(202) 897-7022 cell  
@Interior*

On Wed, Jul 19, 2017 at 6:41 PM, Wilhelm Meierling <[wmeierling@alec.org](mailto:wmeierling@alec.org)> wrote:

The format you outlined remains the same. 10 minutes of remarks and 15- 20 minutes q & a with our CEO Lisa Nelson.

We will keep the event closed, but would you consider a pre- or post- media avail with Peter Marcus of The Gazette from Colorado Springs, Grace Hood from Colorado Public Radio and Marianne Goodland from the Colorado Independent?

We have 3 questions prepared and can add others that you would like to answer (if any)

1. On Saturday, I (Lisa) will be going with my husband to Hanging Lake Park in Glenwood

Springs. While not a national park, it is a natural treasure. In your eyes what is the best thing about the national park system?

2. I understand in 2010 the national park system had revenue of \$10 billion, but in 2016 it had revenue of only \$2 billion. How was there so much of a revenue discrepancy from the beginning to the end of the Obama administration, and how can we maximize revenue while protecting our lands?
3. Secretary Zinke, there is a lot of coverage about your servant leadership style. You've helped shovel snow on the Lincoln memorial during snow storms in DC and so much more. What guidance on leadership do you have for state legislators from around the country?

Best,  
Bill

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Rigas, Laura" <[laura\\_rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_rigas@ios.doi.gov)>

Date: 7/19/17 4:06 PM (GMT-07:00)

To: Wilhelm Meierling <[wmeierling@alec.org](mailto:wmeierling@alec.org)>, "Bullock, Wesley" <[wesley\\_bullock@ios.doi.gov](mailto:wesley_bullock@ios.doi.gov)>

Cc: "Hinson, Alex" <[alex\\_hinson@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alex_hinson@ios.doi.gov)>, Heather Swift <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)>

Subject: Re: ALEC Event

Hi Bill --

Could you please confirm to us the format? When we last spoke with the event person this was 30 min with the Secretary where he would give 10 min of formal remarks and then have a Q and A with your CEO. Is that the same? Who will ask the questions? Any topics in particular?

We will keep it closed press.

Thanks!

My best,

L

*Laura Keehner Rigas  
Communications Director  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(202) 897-7022 cell  
@Interior*

On Wed, Jul 19, 2017 at 6:01 PM, Wilhelm Meierling <[wmeierling@alec.org](mailto:wmeierling@alec.org)> wrote:

Hi Laura and Heather, and thank you Alex,

If you are okay with it and willing to reconsider, we would love to allow media to the Secretary's speech.

While our normal media policy is to open only general sessions and workshops to media, we do have a precedent for exceptions. There is a lot of interest in the Secretary's remarks from mainstream outlets and we'd rather offer access than denial.

It's no trouble at all for us to do this, but we will follow your lead. Happy to have a phone call to chat further if you'd like.

Best,  
Bill Meierling

Chief Operating Officer  
ALEC

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: "Hinson, Alex" <[alex\\_hinson@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alex_hinson@ios.doi.gov)>

Date: 7/19/17 3:47 PM (GMT-07:00)

To: Wilhelm Meierling <[wmeierling@alec.org](mailto:wmeierling@alec.org)>, Laura Rigas <[Laura\\_Rigas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Laura_Rigas@ios.doi.gov)>, Heather Swift <[heather\\_swift@ios.doi.gov](mailto:heather_swift@ios.doi.gov)>

Subject: ALEC Event

Hey all,

I want to introduce Bill from ALEC to Laura Rigas and Heather Swift here at DOI. Earlier I spoke with Bill and he informed me that their events are usually closed press, but they would make an exception for Secretary Zinke's visit. After speaking with Heather and Laura, we decided it best that ALEC conduct the event how you normally would. Bill just called me back to let me know ALEC would be glad to have press, and thinks it would be beneficial for both parties. Any new thoughts or suggestions?

Thanks!

--

Alex Hinson

Deputy Press Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
C: 202-641-5381